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CLAIMS

I CLAIM:

1. A piston for a pharmaceutical cartridge including a tubular barrel extending in an axial direction, the piston being advanceable by a separate drive member of a medication delivery device equipped with the cartridge, the piston comprising:

a body having a distal end, a proximal end and a sealing periphery, said distal end in contact with a medication disposed within the cartridge barrel, said sealing periphery in sealing contact with an interior surface of the barrel, said distal end and sealing periphery unitarily constructed from a material having a first hardness; and

a core within said body and sealed within the cartridge barrel between the distal end and the proximal end, said core constructed from at least one material having a second hardness greater than said first hardness to limit axial compressibility of said piston.

2. The piston of claim 1 wherein said core is completely encapsulated within said body.

3. The piston of claim 2 wherein said body comprises a plug that forms a portion of said proximal end and which seals an interior hollow of said body in which said core is disposed, said plug formed of the same material as said distal end of said body.

4. The piston of claim 2 wherein said core is axially centered within said body to be equidistant from said body proximal and distal ends.

5. The piston of claim 2 wherein said core is cylindrical.

6. The piston of claim 2 wherein said core axially extends between about 25% to 75% of an axial length of said body.

7. The piston of claim 6 wherein said core axially extends between about 50% to 75% of the axial length of said body.

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8. The piston of claim 6 wherein said core axially extends about 75% of the axial length of said body.